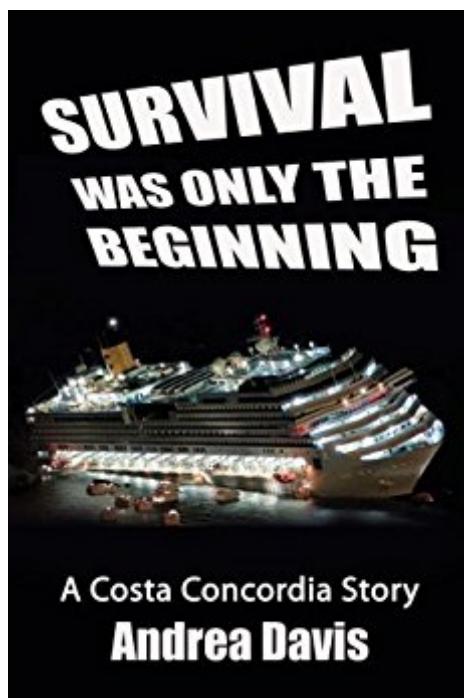


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# Survival Was Only The Beginning - A Costa Concordia Story



## **Synopsis**

On Friday January 13th 2012, the cruise ship, Costa Concordia, ran aground spilling 3200 passengers and 1,000 crew members into the dark water of the Mediterranean. Thirty two people died and many more suffered physical and emotional scars that are still healing. Andrea and Laurence Davis, South African natives and Canadian citizens were unable to find space in a life boat and leading the way, followed by others, had to swim for their lives as the 2000 foot-long ship was rolling over on top of them. Filled with raw emotion, the chaotic events of that night are told through Andreaâ™s eyes from the over-turning dining room, to the open deck rife with panic and confusion, the decision to jump into the black waters and swim to a rocky shore, and the painful hike over coral rocks to safety. We witness the warm hospitality of the local Islanders who rescued, fed and clothed the survivors and the waiting world who prayed for news of their safety. The incredible decision to return to the scene of the disaster only six months later and thank the people of Giglio, despite the challenges of language and customs, attest to the open-hearted courage of the Davis couple. Their hopes, fears, prayers, tears and joy bring the reader on board and into troubled waters as we get an insiderâ™s look at a maritime disaster that is still in the news.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

I have just finished reading your book and just wanted to tell you that I was blown away by it. Your strength, courage and bravery are an inspiration. My husband and I went on a Mediterranean cruise and sailed that route in 2009. My blood ran cold when I heard the news of the Concordia and I followed the story as the tragedy unfolded. I do not think I would have been able to swim as you did. Thank G-d you had the strength to do it and survive. Thank you for writing this amazing book. It is an inspiration to anyone going through any kind of struggle and just proves how we don't know our own strength until we are really put to the test, so we should never give up the fight!

As a frequent cruiser, I found this book fascinating while infuriating. The suffering caused by such gross incompetence should never happen again. The book is well written and clearly a lot of thought and emotion went into it. Everyone reading the book had to ask the question, what would I have done if it had been me? Well done!

This true story is so well written that I felt all the pain the author went through. I think it is only a very talented writer who is able to bring out emotion that is so real. It made me cry. The story also brought out the build up of tension that ensued during this awful tragedy, after the peace, tranquility and beauty that had taken place before and during the good part of this journey on board the Costa Concordia. The book is very well written and is a quick read, because you have to start and finish it in one sitting! I couldn't put it down. Congratulations to this author.

Great account of one couple's actual experiences, while enjoying ship life, waiting for the order to abandon ship & their harrowing escape & it's aftermath.

This story brought me to tears several times. True courage and love expressed so beautifully. Very encouraging ending for those experiencing ptsd.

Andrea does a great job explaining her story of survival with an enlightening honest focus on her battles in the months subsequent to her rescue.

Light and easy to read. An interesting and inspiring story. I would recommend the book. It is

probably more suited to female readers.

Andrea Davis says it so well - survival was only the beginning for her and husband Laurence. This memoir is beautifully written, filled with intense emotion and honesty. Andrea has shared her innermost self with her readers and in doing so, has really made the experience of the sinking ship real to us all. But the fear, the cold, the numbness and disbelief of the accident, the urgency in the drive to live are only the beginning of the story of survival. It is in the second part of the memoir, when Andrea shares herself as she struggles to conquer her fears and angst, that this story shines. For it is here that we come to know the inner beauty and strength of this amazing woman and her touching journey of healing. This book is a must read for all who have challenges to meet, obstacles to overcome and for everyone who needs some inspiration in their lives.

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